in force; (ii) family gratuity as per rules: (iii) war injury pension as per pension regulations.

Since August 1997 ex-gratia lumpsum compensation of Rs. 5 lakhs in case of death occurring due to accident in course of performance of duties and in case of death occurring in course of performance of duty attributable to acts of violence by terrorist, anti- social elements etc; Rs. 7.5 lakhs in case of death occurring during border skirmishes and action against militant, extremists etc; and Rs. 10 lakhs in case of death occurring during enemy action in international war and war like engagements is being paid. The next of kin of soldiers who lost their lives in the Kargil conflict have been paid ex-gratia compensation of Rs. 10 lakhs.

A comprehensive welfare package has been provided to the NOK of the Armed Forces personnel killed in the Kargil conflict. Apart from ex-gratia compensation, liberalised special family pension on the bais of last pay drawn by the deceased soldier, and death gratuity and family gratuity as applicable, the following assistance has also been provided from the National Defence Fund: Rs. 5 lakhs for dwelling unit, Rs. 1 lakh per child for education up to 2 children per family, Rs. 1.20 lakhs for needy parents who were dependent on the deceased soldiers. An additional ex-gratia amount of Rs. 30,000 has also been provided from the Army Central Welfare Fund. Besides, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has separately earmarked LPG dealership/ distributorship for allocation to the NOK of the Armed Forces personnel killed.

**Defence Preparedness by Pakistan Along LoC**

612. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan has increased its preparedness alsong LoC as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 27th January, 2000;

(b) if so, whether Government have been actively watching the situation and are ready to face any type of eventuality; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Certain readjustments and reinforcements by Pakistan on the Line

of Control and in the Sir Creek Areas have been reported. Some Pakistani reserve formations have also been moved from their permanent locations but have not yet been deployed near the border.

Our troops are alert and vigilant to effectively meet any threat.

**Air Crashes**

613. SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of MIG crashes during the last three years;
(b) what is the total cost of. the MIGs crashed;
(c) how many pilots and others died or injured as a result thereof; and
(d) the action taken by Government to prevent such crashes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The total number of MIG crashes and the number of pilots and others died or injured as a result of these crashes during the last three years are as under:—

| | | Injured | | Died | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No. of Crashes | Pilot | Civilians | Pilots | Our Force Personnel | Other Civilians |
| 1997-98 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | 3 |
| 1998-99 | 16 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 9 | 3 |
| 1999-2000 (upto to 15 Feb 2000) | 16 | 2 | | — | | 2 |

The estimated cost of damange in these MIG accidents, as per provisional loss statement, excluding the cost of damage of two accidents where the Courts of Inquiry are not yet completed, is about Rs. 372.36 crores.

(d) A High Powered Committee on Fighter Aircraft Accidents (COFAA) was constituted under the Chairmanship of Scientific Adviser to Raksha Mantri to analyse the causes of accidents which submitted its report in September, 1997. It has made certain recommendations to minimise accident rate.